

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) for its service to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans.

The Foundation began in 2003 by the inspiration of Catherine Roberts of Delaware, whose son was serving in Iraq. Tormented at the thought of a soldier sitting on his lonely cot in despair, Ms. Roberts enlisted the service of her local quilt guild to make quilts for Walter Reed Military Medical Center.

Since 2003, QOVF has expanded to over 10,000 volunteer members in over 600 groups nationwide, recently awarding its 350,000th Quilt of Valor. These quilts are made of the finest materials and designs, with each being appraised at a value between \$600–\$1,400. These quilts, however, are not charity quilts—they are ceremoniously bestowed awards earned by servicemembers and veterans for their commitment and sacrifices.

While the estimated impact to the economy is \$10,000,000 per year, the real benefits of these quilts cannot be quantified. Ms. Roberts' vision of providing comfort sends an unequivocal message to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans: "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation." One such veteran, John Rowdy Oxley—a Vietnam-era veteran—served at the Battle of Ap Bac and suffered from extreme PTSD. Now a Board Member of QOVF, John says that his receipt of a Quilt of Valor turned his life around. QOVF boasts of many such testimonies of lives changed by this simple, yet profoundly impactful gift.

QOVF has partnered with American Gold Star Mothers, Authentically American, the National Grange, Wreaths Across America, JDX Racing, the Vietnam War Commemoration, and has a Platinum Rating by GuideStar.

QOVF's contribution to our Nation cannot be overstated. Through the vision provided by Ms. Roberts to wrap the lonely soldier on a cot in a quilt, and through the tireless efforts of the Foundation and its many members, our servicemembers and veterans experience hope and healing. On behalf of the United States Congress, and as a veteran myself, I congratulate the Quilts of Valor Foundation on reaching 335,000 servicemembers and veterans and thank them for their indispensable service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HASSELL FRANKLIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hassell Franklin. Hassell passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the age of 87. The northeast Mississippi native grew up on a farm and was a classmate of Elvis Presley in Tupelo. He served in the U.S. Army and commanded

the company that protected James Meredith during the integration of the University of Mississippi. He later graduated from Mississippi State University, having earned an industrial engineering degree.

Hassell was the founder and CEO of Franklin Corp., one of the largest privately owned furniture manufacturers in the nation, based out of Houston, Mississippi. The esteemed businessman began Franklin Corp. in 1970, which has been supplying upholstered furniture worldwide for over 50 years.

He was also a philanthropist, establishing a \$1 million endowment at Mississippi State University to build the Franklin Furniture Institute, a research and training center benefiting the furniture community. Hassell was recognized and honored as a Mississippi State Alumnus of the Year, as well as an Itawamba Community College Alumnus of the Year.

During his career, Hassell was actively involved in the community, serving as a past president and board member of the CREATE Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Regional Rehabilitation Center, United Way of Northeast Mississippi, and Sanctuary Hospice House. He served as lead director of BancorpSouth (now Candence Bank) as well as on the boards of the Mississippi Economic Council, North Mississippi Health Services, the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal Publishing Co., Journal Publishing Houston, Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi, Community Development Foundation, and Community Relations Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I was unable to be present on January 24th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2023, a mass shooting in Monterey Park, California, claimed the lives of 11 people in my district. I remained in my community to respond to this crisis and participate in a vigil for the lives lost during this tragedy. I was unable to be in Washington for votes on January 24, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

IN MEMORY OF EDITH "MIMA" MORISSEAU

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Edith "Mima" Morisseau, a long-

time resident of Detroit, as we mourn her passing.

Whether you knew her as Edith, Edie, or Mima, her warm-hearted nature shined through in all that she did. She was an active member of Detroit's Haitian Network Group, where she served as treasurer. She was an awe-inspiring woman and an advocate for the immigrant community.

Edith emigrated to the U.S. in 1951 and to Detroit in 1956 from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She and her husband, the Reverend E. Dumont Morisseau, came to Detroit with their 3 young children so that the Reverend could perform his work at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Alongside her husband, she was deeply committed to the church and the community, but she also had career goals of her own. Edith enrolled in classes at Mercy College and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing, and much later went on to earn a master's from Wayne State University in psychiatry. Edith was employed by the State of Michigan for numerous years as Head of Psychiatric Nursing, retiring in 1984. She then transitioned to work as a marriage therapist for several years.

Always one to remember those who are less fortunate, she served for more than 20 years as a volunteer with Haiti Outreach Mission, assisting the people of Haiti with various medical needs. She served as warden at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and has provided counseling and nursing to numerous residents of Detroit.

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Edith Morisseau's outstanding contributions to the communities of southeast Michigan as we honor her memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM MINNERY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Minnery, who passed away on Christmas Eve.

Tom will be remembered most for his devotion to family and to God. As one of the greatest champions of family values our country has ever known, I am proud to have called him a friend.

In 1987, Tom co-founded Citizen magazine with Dr. James Dobson, a publication dedicated to educating and encouraging Christians to become more engaged citizens. Tom cited Proverbs 11:11 in his very first column, "The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill."

Tom also founded and became senior vice president of Focus on the Family's department of Government and Public Policy. He positioned himself in this role as a leading voice for family values in our nation's most important conversations. This colored his founding of Citizenlink—now Family Policy Alliance—in October 2013, in which he served as CEO and president until his retirement in 2017.

Even in retirement, he remained an active pro-family policy advocate. He was a beloved member of his church, where he served as an elder, and was the recipient of several awards from local civic and church groups. He is survived by his wife, Deb, their 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

This document stands as a testament to Tom's life and legacy, which so profoundly touched the lives of so many people. I pray his family finds comfort and peace, knowing they will be reunited with him again one day in the heavenly mansion in which he now resides with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
LOURDES E. "ALFIE" ALVARADO-RAMOS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos, also known as Alfie. After a career that has spanned over 52 years of distinguished service in the military and public service, Alfie will retire from her role as Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs at the end of this month. I wish to recognize her enormous contributions to the lives of servicemembers and veterans and to express our nation's gratitude for her enduring service.

Born in Puerto Rico, Alfie enlisted in the United States Army in 1971. She would rise to the rank of Troop Command Sergeant Major overseeing the Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis. Upon her retirement from military service in 1993, Alfie continued her commitment to service with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and has served as the Director of WDVA for the last decade. Before then, she served as Superintendent for the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting and the Washington Veterans Home and was the Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Operations for the agency at large.

Under Alfie's leadership, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has been recognized as the leading state veteran's affairs department in the nation, offering the largest portfolio of services. These programs include suicide prevention, clinical counseling, military spouse community integration, peer support, transitional housing, apprenticeships, long-term care, and services for women and LGBTQ+ veterans.

For her service to the veteran community in Washington State and our nation at large, Alfie has received the Army Legion of Merit Medal and the Military Order of Medical Merit. She has also received state and national awards that include the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award. She presently serves as an executive member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of State Veterans Homes.

Mr. Speaker, Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos exemplifies a devotion to public service and a commitment to providing exceptional public service to veterans at the highest level. Through her career, Alfie has broken barriers and empowered the next generation of soldiers, especially women, to lead at the highest levels of military and public service. I am proud to recognize Director Alvarado-Ramos.

HONORING NORA MANELLA UPON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Nora Margaret Manella, who will soon retire as Presiding Justice for the California Second District Court of Appeal, Division Four.

Justice Manella has held numerous highly esteemed positions over the course of her career ranging from being a complex civil litigator in private practice and a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles to being a U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California and U.S. District Judge.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Justice Manella received her Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California Law School. She began her judicial career as a law clerk for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, before serving as a counsel to the Subcommittee on the Constitution in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. After some time in private practice, she returned to working for the government as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. I had the pleasure of being her colleague in that office when she led the appellate division. Her sparkling intellect, quick wit, expansive knowledge, analytical skills and brilliant oratory were legendary in the office. An accomplished lawyer in the courtroom as well, she prosecuted a wide variety of cases ranging from homicide to commodities fraud to international narcotics trafficking. She later served as a judge on the Los Angeles Municipal Court and Los Angeles Superior Court.

In 1994, former President Bill Clinton recognized her dedication and public service by nominating Judge Manella to be the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, where she oversaw an office of over 200 lawyers. During her time as U.S. Attorney, she was recognized by the National Law Journal as one of "The 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in the United States" and by the Daily Journal as one of "The 100 most Powerful Lawyers in California." After being nominated again by former President Clinton to be a U.S. District Judge, where she was unanimously approved by the United States Senate, she was named "Federal Judge of the Year" by Century City Bar Association, Criminal Section. In 2006 she was nominated by former Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Court of Appeal and in 2018 to her final position as Presiding Justice by former Governor Brown.

While her list of accomplishments is far longer than can be included here, it is clear that Justice Manella's expertise in the legal field and her devotion to serving and improving her nation is unmatched. She is a true role model and inspiration for all, but above all else, Nora is a fierce friend, with an everpresent smile and zeal for life that extends beyond the courtroom. She has been a trusted mentor to countless young people and women across the legal field in Southern California, service that will continue past her time on the bench.

The Honorable Nora Margaret Manella has been truly indispensable to not only Southern California, but to California and the Nation. Her public service will not only be remembered, but cherished. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking Justice Manella for over 4 decades of unwavering and exceptional public service.

RECOGNIZING CELIA GOULD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the retiring director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and my close personal friend, Celia Gould. An Idaho native, third-generation cattle rancher, and dedicated public servant, Celia exemplifies Idaho's spirit and respect for agriculture.

Celia was born and raised in an Idaho ranching family, and used the generations of knowledge she gained growing up to run her own cattle operations as an adult. Always interested in public service, Celia served 16 years in the Idaho House of Representatives before becoming the first woman to lead the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, a position she held for another 16 years. She saw the Department through the 2008 recession, during which she kept Idaho agriculture as the state's strongest industry, and is leaving her office with Idaho's agricultural exports worth over a billion dollars more per year than when she entered. As if her ranching and public service didn't keep her busy enough, Celia raised a wonderful family with her husband and former Idaho House Speaker Bruce Newcomb. I know she will do a great job implanting her long-held love for agriculture in her grandchildren.

I first got to know Celia personally while we were both serving in the Idaho House of Representatives, and she quickly became one of my and my wife Kathy's best friends. In my last term as Speaker of the House, Celia served as the chair of the House Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee. She was an effective legislator who I was always glad to have in my conference. Of course, in politics it is hard to always keep everyone happy. Bruce and I learned one cardinal rule of working with Celia Gould: never mess with her when she is wearing a red dress.

I join Celia's family and many friends and colleagues in congratulating her on an extraordinary career in public service and wishing her luck in her next chapter.

COMMEMORATING ARIANNE
SLAY'S SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF ANN ARBOR AND
WASHTENAW COUNTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Arianne Slay of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the occasion of her investiture as a judge of the 22nd Circuit Court of